

Message Text

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15

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD ENRG PL UR

SUBJ: PIPELINE TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN USSR BY POLAND

REF: MOSCOW 18776; WARSAW 7279; WARSAW 7320

1. SPECIFIC ROUTE OF PIPELINE TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITHIN USSR BY POLAND AS MEANS OF PAYMENT FOR ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF OIL CONTINUES UNCERTAIN AS RESULT OF REMARKS MADE DEC 18 BY GOSPLAN DIRECTOR BAYBAKOV IN SPEECH BEFORE SUPREME SOVIET.

2. MENTIONING PROJECT AS NEW DEVELOPMENT IN SOVIET FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, BAYBAKOV DESCRIBES ROUTE AS RUNNING THROUGH POLOTZK (BYELORUSSIA), BIRZHAI AND MYAZHEYKYAY (LITHUANIA). PROJECTION OF THIS ROUTE WOULD LEAD TO PORT OF LEPAYA IN LATVIA.

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3. PRIOR TO PUBLICATION OF BAYBAKOV SPEECH, EMBASSY HAD ASSUMED THAT NEW LINE WOULD BE A NORTHWARD SPUR FROM EXISTING LINE RUNNING FROM UNECHA IN RSFSR THROUGH POLOTSK TO PORT OF VENTSPILS IN LATVIA. LOGICAL ROUTE FOR NEW LINE INVOLVING ESTONIA WOULD BE A NORTHERN BRANCH FROM A POINT ON EXISTING LINE A FEW MILES WEST OF POLOTSK TO ESTONIAN PORT OF TALLIN. SUCH A LINE WOULD BE ALMOST EXACTLY 450 KILOMETERS IN LENGTH.

4. DURING NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS WE SHOULD OBTAIN MORE PRECISE PICTURE FROM FURTHER DETAILS WHICH WE ARE SURE WILL SURFACE IN POLAND AND POSSIBLY ALSO IN USSR.
STOESSEL

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